

# Social Forms and Entertainment



**The Proper Present to Give.**  
Is it proper for a lady to accept a ring from a young man, as a Christmas gift? I enjoy your department very much.  
I. O. C.

I am glad you like the department, but am afraid you will not like my answer to your question. I do not think a ring should be given by a young man for a gift unless it is meant for an engagement ring. There are so many other things to give and a ring is a token reserved as a love offering from the man to the girl whom he expects to make his wife.

## Perfectly Correct Dress.

Will you please tell me if it would be all right to wear a white net dress, short sleeves and low neck to a dance this month, or is it too cold? Or would a heavier dress be better. I am fifteen. How should I wear my hair? You have often helped me, so please do so again. Thanking you again and again.  
DORA B.

A net dress is perfectly proper to wear to a party in cold weather, for climate is ignored when it comes to dances, so bundle up warm in outside wraps and wear your thin frocks. Wear your hair as most becoming, I should say either in Madonna braids or a soft pompadour with a ribbon bow at nape of neck.

## From "A Constant Reader."

Am a constant reader of your section and enjoy it exceedingly. Is it proper for a young lady to allow herself to be seen by gentlemen when attired in a kimono? I have answered the doorbell in my kimono when it has been unexpected gentlemen callers, or have been in the same room as they were ushered in. I always feel greatly embarrassed and leave the room immediately and dress. Is it wrong or proper? My girl friends say I am silly. They don't see the difference between a dress or kimono. Is my writing bad?

## "BLUE EYES."

If you are constantly caught with your kimono on, you are perfectly right in excusing yourself and putting on the proper attire. Of course if you are ill you have an excuse, otherwise it is not good form to wear a kimono when callers are present and you have reason to feel embarrassed, for men do not usually call at times when they do not expect a girl to be properly dressed to receive them.

## For a Birthday Gift.

I don't see any rules for asking you questions in the column, and I believe you will answer them. I sure enjoy reading that section of the paper. Will you kindly tell me what would be most appropriate to send a girl friend for a birthday remembrance. She is over twenty. We have

been writing for about a year but haven't met her yet.  
W. B.

There are no rules regarding questions for our department, save that they be of interest to others and have a bearing upon the topics discussed. Seems to me a pair of gloves or a half-dozen fine handkerchiefs, or a box of monogrammed stationery, would be appropriate gifts for the friend you have never seen.

## Reply to "Two American Beauties."

You two chums are very kind to like what I say in the department, but I have some pretty strong advice to give you and that is be more careful of your conduct on the street. Do not notice men whom you do not know. If you do you lay yourselves liable to very unpleasant remarks. When you have men callers, be as agreeable as possible, play cards or games if you like and have little chafing dish suppers or some kind of light refreshments. Pretty girls are often stared at, but do not notice it. The shy girl wins out in the end, for when it comes to marrying, a man wants a woman for his wife who has not been talked about by other men and who has held herself in reserve. The only way to become acquainted is to be properly introduced.

## Reply to "George A."

Break your engagement with the girl with whom you have been going for six years, for it would be a sin to marry her when you love some one else, but I must say I think you have committed an almost unpardonable crime to go with one girl for six years, take her time and love and then at the last throw her over for a girl who has recently come into your life.

I do not believe in long engagements, for this very reason; no man has a right to bind a girl for such a length of time; if he is not ready to marry, he should wait. Now be a man and tell your faithful friend that you have made a mistake, and do not ask the "other girl" until you are sure of yourself and ready for her to set the day when you ask her.

## To an "Unhappy Girl."

Seems to me this "Unhappy Girl" is having a rather hard time. I certainly do think that a thirteen-year-old girl is too young to go with any one, let alone a man who is twenty-three. Midnight is too late for a caller to remain, and no girl should walk "a ways" with him on his going home. Stop all this at once. I am glad you came to me if you have no mother or older person to consult, but I am always afraid my answers may be too late to help. Questions to be answered at once should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me in care of the paper, for an immediate reply.

## Alice Baker's Reply.

My dear, I do not know of any way to enlarge your face. If Nature did not provide you with a face in proportion to your body I fear you will have to endure it as one of your crosses. Fluff your hair out on the sides and that will make your face appear larger.

## MADAME MERRI.

## Newest Cushion.

The cushion of the moment is undoubtedly the new round shape, which is made of ruffled silk or satin and is big, soft and light as a feather. There are fine muslin covers designed for these as well as for the ordinary square-shaped cushion, which is in France also recognized as the most comfortable form of night pillow.

# STUDY HIGH PRICES

PARTY THAT CAN DEVISE PLAN TO REDUCE THEM WILL WIN IN NEXT ELECTION.

## SO BELIEVE THE LEADERS

Democrats Say Reduced Tariff Will Solve Problem, Republicans Assert This Will Lower Wages Also—Progressives Have Other Ideas.

## By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—Washington leaders of the three parties, Republican, Democratic and Progressive, say that the party which can present the best plan to bring down the high cost of living will be the party to be assured of victory the next time there is a chance for the people to vote on national issues. The leaders add that while the parties and the people are talking about the tariff, the trust, currency, battleships and other things of importance, they are thinking mainly on the price of beef, butter, eggs, clothes and machinery.

In a measure the Democrats seem to believe that the high cost of living can be reduced by reducing the tariff. Now just as naturally as rain falls out of an overburdened cloud, the Republicans answer that if the customs are cut prices will go down, but wages will go down with them and that men with less money will be no better off with low prices than they were with more money and high prices. The Progressives say that there is a way to solve the high cost of living and that it is not to be found through the tariff. The duties, they say, should be cut to a considerable degree, but not as much as the Democrats desire, and that this cut with other things yet to be definitely determined will reduce the cost of living without reducing the rate of wages.

## All Studying the Problem.

The high cost of living is to be investigated by a non-partisan body, but whether it will reach any conclusions of value of course remains to be seen. The Democrats are going to study high prices in connection with legislation affecting the trusts, the tariff and the currency. They say that the trusts keep up the high cost of living and that the tariff is the mother of the trusts, and so they hope through trust legislation and tariff legislation to accomplish the thing which seemingly all people want to be accomplished.

The Progressive party, as has been noted before in these dispatches, has established a working bureau for the purpose of studying the problem of the high prices for food, raiment and rent. There are a good many men and women connected with the Progressive party who are at once economists and social service workers. These men and women have studied the economic problems in the hope that they might find some means of relieving the condition of the poor in the congested districts of the big cities where wages are comparatively small, families are large and prices are big.

Some of the Republicans say that the Progressives can go ahead along these lines of investigation if they choose to, but they will find that the lines will lead into the realm of supply and demand and natural causes generally. It is only a few of the Republicans who say this as a final answer. There are leaders in the party in Washington who maintain that the high cost of living is the real big problem of the day and that the Republican party can get back into power if it shall present a plan which seems adequate to its solving. For this reason Republican economists are to study economic conditions and to present them to the congressional leaders some time in the future, but in plenty of time to make them available in the congressional campaign one year from next fall.

## Who Will Head This Committee?

Washington dispatches have discussed thoroughly the subject of which school of Democratic thought is to control the next senate. It seems, as has been said in this correspondence before, that the Democrats who say they are of the more progressive school will be in the majority of their party in the senate and will control the committee assignment and other matters of party moment. The subject of seniority of service and the claim which it has to recognition in the matter of committee chairmanships also has been discussed and reasons have been given why Senator Tillman, who is the ranking Democrat on the committee on interstate commerce, may not be chosen by his Democratic colleagues to preside over that important body.

If Mr. Tillman prefers the chairmanship of the naval committee, on which he is at present the ranking member of the minority side, and foregoes all claim to the chairmanship of the committee on interstate commerce, who will be named as chairman of this committee which probably will have before it for consideration the most important legislation to be undertaken by the Democratic administration?

It was the interstate commerce committee of the senate which formulated the railroad rate legislation and which brought into being the interstate commerce commission. It deals largely with trust matters because the output of trusts enters into the commerce between the states. It is a committee of the first importance and its recommendations made to the sen-

ate as a whole can be a power for good or evil.

## Gore May Be Promoted.

If Mr. Tillman does not become chairman of this highly important committee there are three other Democrats now sitting on the minority side of the committee who will still hold office after March 4 when the minority side becomes the majority side. Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma, is a member of the committee. He is fairly well down on the list, but there is a feeling that the progressive Democrats may attempt to give Mr. Gore a promotion. The question is how far they will care to go in their rejection of the claims of seniority of service. Senator Newlands of Nevada and Senator Clarke of Arkansas rank Mr. Gore in the Democratic membership of the present interstate commerce committee.

The Democrats are going to consider long and deeply before they settle the question of the interstate commerce chairmanship. The present chairman of the committee is Moses E. Clapp, progressive-Republican, of Minnesota. Holding membership with him are two progressive Republicans, Albert B. Cummins of Iowa and Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin. If these three members of the present Republican majority on the committee retain their membership in the committee as minority representatives when the Democrats are in control, the feeling is that the progressive Democracy in attempting interstate commerce legislation may count upon the support of the progressive Republicans whose records in the senate show that they have been for advanced laws in all matters pertaining to traffic between the states.

## Inauguration Gossip.

President-elect Wilson's decree that there shall be no inaugural ball puts the inauguration ceremonies on an almost strictly official basis. There is no chance now that there will be as much as a reception in the capitol in the evening, and it is virtually certain that there will be no reception at the White House, which is not large enough to accommodate the thousands of people who certainly would throng to the place to shake the hand of the incoming chief.

It must not be understood that the opposition to the reception in the capitol which developed in congress was at all a partisan affair. It was not based on a wish to belittle the inaugural affair, but it came from the belief that the new president would find himself a victim, rather than a hero, before midnight of March 4, if strenuous reception ceremonies were forced upon him after his hard work of speechmaking and parade-reviewing during the daylight hours.

No visitor who had intended to come to Washington for the inaugural ceremonies should feel inclined to stay away because there is to be no ball, and probably no reception. The chances are that this will be the scene of spectacular doings enough to make up for all that has been left out of the program. It must not be forgotten that there is to be a huge woman suffrage parade on March 3, and it is definitely known that if the weather is at all favorable this parade will overshadow in its human interest the display that the men are to get up the next day.

## Weather Won't Stop Women.

The women are hoping for bright skies and dry pavements on March 3, but the promise of their militant leaders is that no matter what the weather, their followers will show the courage of their convictions, and will march in snow, sleet and rain just as they would in sunshine. It is understood that every woman who marches will be given a distinctive garment to wear, weather-proof and warm. In a way this will make the affair a "uniformly uniformed" one, but if the day be warm these garments will be thrown aside, and the women will appear each after her own manner of interpreting the fashions of the day.

It is probable that congress before long will take up the matter of the inaugurations of the future and make some kind of definite provision for them.

## Washington Memorial Hall.

Already there is in congress a bill looking to the erection in this city of a huge and beautiful marble building to be known as the George Washington Memorial. Congress is not going to appropriate money for this structure, but it already has granted a site upon which it may be erected. The George Washington Memorial hall project originated in Massachusetts, and Henry Cabot Lodge became its spokesman. The idea is for the people of each state to contribute a sum of money in order that the memorial may be entirely national. The movement has grown and it seems likely that before long something will become of it.

The site which congress has set aside for the memorial building is that once occupied by the old Pennsylvania railroad station just south of Pennsylvania avenue near Sixth street. The proposal is to use the building for inaugural balls, for functions of patriotic societies and for any other use which seems suitable.

With the ball eliminated and with the reception also "done for," the probable attempt of the committee in charge of the inauguration will be to make the parade unusually great and unusually brilliant. Definite orders already have been issued for troops to come here from the outlying government posts, and some of the states already have signified their intention to send organizations of the National Guard. It is known that 1,000 Princeton graduates and several hundreds of undergraduates will appear in the parade probably in academic gowns and mortar boards.



# PARASOLS ARE PRETTY

EARLY MODELS ALL OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE TYPE.

Flowered Silks Have the Most Admirers—Exquisite in Color and Design—Some of the Types Explained and Illustrated.

Parasols hardly seem a vital necessity at this time, but there is something distinctively encouraging about the sight of them. The models are exceedingly attractive this year, and though a greater variety will be shown later on, one might very well buy now without danger of future regret.

The plainer and more severe sunshades always predominate in the early showing. Fluffy laces, chiffon,



etc., are reserved for the summer trade, but there are some charming parasols of the elaborate summer type, and so pretty are they that it seems unlikely that the later season will reveal anything more desirable.

The flowered silks win general admiration, and the designers have accomplished excellent effects with these silken fabrics, woven especially for parasol purposes and exquisite both in color and in design.

One line of these parasols has a wide border of plain color. Above this is a solid mass of flowers and foliage. The border is of delicate lace. The roses and foliage, somewhat blurred and toward their outlines, melt into vagueness. Another type of the floral decorated parasol also has a plain border, the rose decorations being shown in festoon design around the upper part of the parasol. Sometimes the plain border is separated from the floral decorations by shadow lines of black or applied braid designs in white soutache, as shown in another parasol illustrated on this page. The parasol is of white taffeta, trimmed at the lower part by applied white silk soutache, and above the braid design is a festoon of large delicate pink roses.

One of the New York shops is showing parasols made up of level founced cotton stuffs, to be worn en

suite with trim little morning or beach frocks of the same material.

The parasol and costume are of figured cotton voile. The parasol has a deep border of floral design and shadow lines of indistinct coloring on white ground. The rest of the cover has scattered flowers, harmonizing with the flowers of the border, but distributed in little clusters over the white voile with the scattered-flounce design, but without the floral border.

In the plain, one-tone silks there are parasols of various qualities, but to be really smart a parasol of this type needs to be of fairly heavy silk, and the cheaper models are at their best in the striped or figured silk.

MARY DEAN.

## LONG SLEEVE LINE DEFINITE

Indiscreet Treatment of It May Be Depended On to Mar a Gown's Appearance.

No feature of a dress requires more careful and discreet treatment than sleeves, and nothing detracts more from the appearance of a gown than over-elaborate ones. Elaborate they may be in reality, much trimmed and intricate of cut, but, withal, their shape must assume a definiteness. This is true even of the "angel," "wing," and other varieties of the flowing sleeves, although as these are generally of thin materials the arm itself being visible, defines the line.

In some instances the long sleeves, close fitting, that are seen in evening dresses are completed at the wrists by wide flowing cuffs wired or stiffened and sometimes of such exaggerated proportions that they would extend beyond the finger tips were they to be drawn down over them.

## DICTATES OF FASHION

There is a positive fad for small hats and toques, some fitting the head as closely as a cap.

The Turkish blouse seen on afternoon gowns is made of a darker material than the fancy mousseline dress, and edged with fur.

Beautiful sets of natural red fox, with their dangling legs and tails, look as if their fair wearers had just returned from the chase.

It is dispiriting to notice that paradise plumes continue to lead in popularity, notwithstanding the many pleas for this unfortunate bird.

Transparent sleeves and corsage of tulle or lace and kimono draped sleeves remain popular on many handsome brocaded and velvet robes de soiree.

The short dolman mantles of fur seem to be gaining. Usually they are fastened with a single large button or buckle, or tortoise shell or strass stone.

## Fur Collar and Cuffs.

Detachable collar and cuffs of fur are attractive and practical. They may be adjusted to any suit, giving it an altogether different appearance. The collars vary in shape according to the fur. The rolling style is seen in the long-haired fur, but where mole-skins, ermine, mink, sable and other close furs are employed, the collar may be a small square or round sailor. It may be notched, and the cuffs pointed, and it may be trimmed with tiny heads and tails. Some of these fur sets have a touch of lace.

If unlined, the edge of material should be bound with ribbon and turned up, then stitched close to the ribbon; this is better than turning in a hem in the ordinary way, as it is not so thick.

If lined, turn in the edge of both cloth and lining all round, tack them together, then neatly slip-stitch the edges; join the shoulder parts of cloth and lining separately, and let both seams face inside.

Rather large hooks and eyes should be used for fastening, the eyes to be worked over in buttonhole with silk of the same color as the material. The lining of hood should be joined to material in the same way as that of cloak. To gather up the edge, make two lines of stitching half an inch apart, about three inches from edge, as shown by dotted line in the diagram; thread elastic in between the cloth and lining; the elastic should draw the hood up just to fit loosely round the face. Set the hood to the neck of cloak, sew ribbon in front by which to fasten cloak. Sew a loop or small chain inside the back of neck for hanging up with.

Material required, two and one-quarter yards forty-six inches wide.

## Gathered Muff.

The huge granny muff made of gathered and corded silk, velvet, brocade or chiffon, is very fashionable this season. It is besides quite simple to make, and looks much better than a muff of poor imitation fur. Two thicknesses of wadding from the lining on to which the outer covering is gathered and divided into sections with piping cords. Wide frills of the silk finish off the muff on either side.

# Demi-Season Hat a Feature of Millinery for Easter



The demi-season hat is made this year of a combination of winter and spring fabrics over a frame of featherweight buckram. These hats, to be worn between winter and spring, are found to be not only a refreshing change, but most useful. Easter comes early, falling on the 23d of March, and the demi-season hat has been already launched to meet the demand for Easter millinery.

The hats portrayed here are fine examples of demi-season models. They are made of satin-straw braid and velvets and trimmed with compact made flowers or ornaments which are appropriate to either summer or winter. The braids are in strong, rich colors and usually match the velvet used

with them or are a shade or so lighter. They are highly lustrous. Sometimes braid and velvet in contrasting colors are used together, but they must be carefully chosen.

Very little decorating is the rule on hats of this character. Shapes are small or medium in size. These hats serve their purpose until the weather is established and spring has really arrived. Their usefulness lasts beyond this more or less extended period as they will be called upon for many a cool day in summer and for occasions where the airy millinery designed for the coming summer must be replaced by something more substantial.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

## CLOAK TO SUIT SMALL GIRL



These cloaks are always useful and look well made either in red, white or any pretty light color. Firm material should be used, such as nap cloth, face cloth, or fine serge. The cloak may be lined throughout if liked, but the hood must be lined unless the material used is very thick and has both sides alike.